

Message from the SIS Executive Steering Committee regarding the Common SIS Procurement

July 23, 2013

The SIS Executive Steering Committee and the Ministry of Education are pleased to announce that **Fujitsu Consulting (Canada) Inc.** has been selected as the lead proponent to replace BCeSIS.

This selection is the result of a comprehensive process involving experts from school districts, independent schools and the Ministry. The goal has been to select the vendor that best delivers the functionality described in the Request for Proposal and has the corporate capacity to provide a stable, low-risk, flexible solution that will serve students and schools well.

Fujitsu's hosted service is built around **Follett Corporation's Aspen** product. Aspen is a modern, feature-rich student information system designed from the ground up for province-wide implementations and to fully support learning and teaching. The proposed solution was selected because it has features that best address key requirements for schools in BC:

- Aspen is a true enterprise solution that maintains a single record for each student throughout their entire education career
- The software has the features and flexibility needed to support Personalized Learning in BC
- A comprehensive web-based portal will allow parents and students to access student records, monitor student progress on a continual basis, and communicate securely with teachers and other school-based staff
- Flexible scheduling options
- Support for continuous learning models
- A modern interface that is easy to learn, easy to use, and can be tailored to user preferences and workflows
- A comprehensive suite of reports and robust reporting tools that, within appropriate security constraints, have access to the entire database.

Aspen is being used by large school districts, including Miami-Dade County Public Schools in Florida (more than 890,000 student records) and by complex, multi-district education agencies that support schools in multiple countries.

The Ministry is currently undertaking reviews for due diligence and will soon enter into contract finalization. It is anticipated that a contract for the new service will be in place early in the fall.

The selection of a solution is major milestone, but much more work will be needed to implement the new service in schools across the province. A collaborative approach will continue to be used as we review governance, revise business process standards, and develop plans and training materials. We will work closely with users and stakeholder groups to ensure that school districts and independent schools have access to the tools that they need to implement the new service effectively, with minimum disruption to users. We will be working with districts on a deployment schedule with the expectation that schools will likely begin the transition to the new student information service in 2014 and 2015, so that we can decommission BCeSIS in early in 2016.

Renate Butterfield

Assistant Deputy Minister

Chair, SIS Executive Steering Committee